

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 -16 are pending. By this Amendment claim 16 is added. Claim 14 has been withdrawn. Claims 1-13 and 15 read on the elected embodiment.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0005097 to Barnard et al.; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Barnard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,514 to Machida. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 13 recite, in combination with other claimed features, after a change in an IP address is detected, searching for a printing device over a network using information specific to the printing device. The Office actions refers to paragraphs [0012] and [0014] of Barnard as disclosing these features. However detecting an address assignment as discussed in paragraph [0012] is not detecting a change in the IP address. Rather, as discussed in paragraph [0010], a new printing device is detected. Paragraph [0066] et seq. of Barnard refers to printer 18 being assigned a new IP address. However, there is no disclosure of searching for the printing device over the network after the change in IP address is detected. Instead, a previously identified print queue associated with printer 18 is referred to. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 recites a printing device comprising a detector detecting a change in an IP address, a recorder recording a past IP address as specific information when the change in the IP address has been made and a responder retrieving the recorded past IP address upon an inquiry from an external device and

making a response. The Office Action asserts that Barnard discloses the features of independent claim 8 at paragraphs [0012] and [0014] of Barnard. However, paragraph [0014] indicates that print queues are created and configured upon detection of a printing device. Changes in printing device addresses or print queue identification information are updated in the corresponding print queue configurations. Thus, paragraph [0014] of Barnard relates to print queues. It does not refer to a printing device including these features. As disclosed in Fig. 9 of Barnard, print queues 61 are part of the network management device 20. Printers 17 and 18 are separate devices from the print queue. Thus, claim 8 is distinguishable over Barnard.

Independent claims 9 and 15 recite, in combination with other claimed features, determining whether or not it is possible to establish communications with a printing device connected to a network and preset to be available for the communications, when it is determined impossible to establish the communications, transmitting a command for obtaining information specific to the printing device on a network to search for the printing device, and identifying an IP address on the printing device based on the information specific to the printing device included in a response to the command.

The Office Action indicates that the feature of determining whether or not it is possible to establish communications with a printing device is disclosed in paragraph [0072] of Barnard. As discussed in paragraph [0071] of Barnard, if the name of a print queue is changed, all network devices, such as workstation 12, that use that particular print queue, will no longer have a connection with printer 18. Each network device with a connection to printer 18 must learn a new name of the print

queue associated with printer 18. The method for each network device learning the new print queue name of the print queue associated with the printer is disclosed in Figs. 13 and 14. Neither Fig. 13 nor Fig. 14 discloses when it is determined impossible to establish the communications, transmitting a command for obtaining information specific to the printing device on the network to search for the printing device as in claims 9 and 15.

As described at paragraph [0074] of Barnard, the procedure for updating a print queue connection may be made, for example, by a network management device simply notifying software installed on the identified client workstation of the new identification information. As discussed in paragraph [0007] of applicant's specification, notification is not provided effectively if the PC is not connected onto a network, if the PC is powered off or if the PC is powered on but not in a state capable of receiving a notification change. In paragraph [0042] of Barnard, discovery module 84 is used to perform discovery on detected printing devices so as to obtain information regarding a printing device's network settings and functional capabilities. Discovery module 84 can receive notification of a detected printing device through a software hook from DHCP server 75, from classic discovery methods and/or from DHCP listening module 80. However, this concerns the situation where it is possible to communicate with the printing devices.

Machida does not overcome the deficiencies of Barnard noted above.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite. For example, dependent claim 2 recites wherein the information specific to the printing device is information of the printing device other than a MAC address, and includes at least one of a name, a

specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of the printing device. The Office Action asserts that Barnard discloses searching for the printing device over the network using information specific to the printing device where the information specific to the printing device is information of the printing device other than a MAC address. However, as disclosed in Barnard at paragraph [0067], upon receiving notification that printer 18 has been assigned an IP address, in step 1203 discovery module 84 compares the MAC address of printer 18 with those listed in the entries of device management directory 70. An entry is found under the MAC address of printer 18 together with its previous IP address. Thus, Barnard specifically teaches searching for the printing device over the network using a MAC address.

New claim 16 recites wherein the computer that executes the program steps is configured to initiate print commands. This feature is not disclosed by Barnard. Instead, Barnard discloses a network management device separate from the workstation.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: December 28, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Britton', written over a horizontal line.

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